

ART. XXVII.—*A Treatise on the Diseases of Infancy and Childhood.* By J. LEWIS SMITH, M.D., Clinical Prof. of Diseases of Children in Bellevue Hospital Medical College, etc. Fourth edition. Thoroughly revised. 8vo. pp. 758. Philadelphia: Henry C. Lea, 1879.

THE high appreciation in which this excellent work is held by the profession is best attested by the fact that on the completion of its first decade it has reached a fourth edition, and it only remains for us to add that the revision which it has just undergone brings its teachings fully abreast the latest advances of medical knowledge.

We notice marked evidences of revision in the chapters on scarlatina and on diphtheria. Dr. Smith holds that the natural course of scarlatina cannot be shortened or aborted by treatment, and that carbolic acid, salicylic acid, or any other known remedy cannot be safely used in sufficiently large doses to antagonize the specific poison in the system. He is also an uncompromising believer in the constitutional character of diphtheria, and thinks that incalculable mischief has been done by the teachings of Oertel as to the local infectious origin of this disease. He earnestly advocates constitutional treatment from the beginning as of paramount importance, and holds that the indications are, as in scarlet fever, to sustain the patient by the most nutritious diet, by tonics, and a liberal use of stimulants, and to employ other measures, general and local, as adjuvants to meet special indications which may arise.

In the treatment of intussusception, "when pressure from below by water, air, or gas, which is the only efficient mode of treatment short of the knife, has been tried sufficiently long and often without result," Dr. Smith urges that surgical advice in reference to laparotomy, be sought, and adds that "laparotomy performed on the first or second day will be much more likely to save life in ordinary cases than if performed later, since the strangulated intestine is soon badly damaged, and a local peritonitis is apt to be developed any time after the first forty-eight hours."

Dr. Smith has written such an excellent treatise that we cannot but wish that in his next edition he would supply a deficiency conspicuous in all our text-books on diseases of children—a complete chapter on infant diet in health and disease. The importance of this subject is universally recognized, yet, strange to say, there is no systematic work, so far as we know, with perhaps the single exception of Eustace Smith on *Wasting Diseases of Children*, in which the subject is at all fully treated.

I. M. H.

ART. XXXVIII.—*Trattato Pratico delle Malattie delle Donne*, per T. GAILLARD THOMAS, Dottore in Medicina, Professore di Ostetrica e Malattie delle Donne e dei Brambini nel Collegio dei Medici e Chirurghi di Nuova York, etc. etc. . . . *Versione Italiana Dall' originale Inglese*, dei Dottori L. GIUNTOLI e P. BOTTONI. Con 191 figure intercalate nel testo. Prima edizione. 8vo. pp. 870. Firenze. Tipografia di Eduardo Ducci, 1877.

A Practical Treatise upon the Diseases of Women, by T. GAILLARD THOMAS, M.D., Professor of Obstetrics and Diseases of Women and Children in the College of Physicians and Surgeons of New York, etc. etc. *Italian Translation from the original English*, by Doctors L. GIUNTOLI and P. BOTTONI.

THIS large octavo volume of 870 pages pays quite a handsome compliment to the recently-elected President of the American Gynæcological Society, and author

of the work of which it is a translation. Like the contributions to medical science of their own distinguished Professor of Bologna, Francesco Rizzoli, the volume by Dr. Thomas derives much of its value from his own extensive experience, so much made use of in its preparation. Appreciating this, the translators say at different points of their preface: The work of Professor Thomas, in all its relations, leaves nothing to desire. It is particularly preferable to other works of the same kind by reason of the eminently practical spirit which pervades it. . . . "We believe that it will contribute effectively to the advancement of gynecology in Italy." The translation is dedicated to "The Illustrious Professor Pietro Cipriani, President, and Teacher of Clinical Medicine in the School of Florence, and Senator and Chief Physician of the Kingdom."

The translators of Dr. Thomas's work have confined themselves almost entirely to the reproduction of the text in their own tongue; but there are a few explanatory foot-notes, one of which is an amusing interpretation of the expression, "our *Milesian* population"—"*la nostra popolazione Milesia*." "It applies to that population which is found *scattered* through North America, and which originating in Ireland, has preserved the customs, religion, etc. of the country from which they originated. They are called in America, *Milesian*." Page 23. Considering that the term is not found in any of the leading dictionaries in the English language, it is more remarkable that the translators should have known that it applied to the Celtic Irish, than that they should have thought this population was *sparsely* distributed among us, where they abound in every large town across the continent.

The reproduction of so large a work in Italy is another of the many evidences of the high appreciation in which the labours of American gynecologists are held abroad.

R. P. H.

ART. XXXIX.—*A Treatise on Therapeutics, comprising Materia Medica and Toxicology, with especial reference to the Application of the Physiological Action of Drugs to Clinical Medicine.* By H. C. WOOD, JR., M.D., Professor of Materia Medica and Therapeutics in the University of Pennsylvania. Third edition, revised and enlarged. 8vo. pp. 720. Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott & Co., 1879.

IN the present edition of this well-known and justly-esteemed work, no very essential changes are to be observed, but a few articles, especially those upon salicylic acid and jaborandi, have been rewritten to correspond with the most recent inquiries upon these subjects, and a few others, mostly upon drugs of comparatively slight importance, have been added. We may notice the same thoroughness of research into the literature of therapeutics which has marked former editions, as well as the ability with which the results are utilized.

As a teacher of therapeutics, the writer cannot help wishing that a "student's edition" of this work might be prepared, in which the various authorities, so confusing to the student, especially when arrayed, as science so often demands, on opposite sides of some question, might be "boiled down," and, so far as may be, harmonized by a competent hand, best of all, the author's.

If the beginner is to get any clear notions of experimental therapeutics whatever, and especially if he is to trust his memory for them after being once acquired, a little scientific nicety must sometimes be sacrificed in his behalf in favour of clearness and decision of statement.

R. T. E.